H. R. 2591

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2017

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN of South Carolina, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. VEASEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

A BILL

To amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to modernize the funding of wildlife conservation, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Modernizing the Pittman-Robertson Fund for Tomorrow’s Needs Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The first section of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669) is amended by adding at the end the following: “One of the purposes of this Act
is to provide financial and technical assistance to the States for the promotion of hunting and recreational shooting.”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

Section 2 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (8) as paragraphs (4) through (10), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) for the purposes of determining the number of paid hunting-license holders in a State, the term ‘fiscal year’ means the fiscal year or license year of the State;

“(3) the term ‘hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment’ means any activity or project to recruit or retain hunters and recreational shooters, including by—

“(A) using social media, marketing, advertising, surveying, television spots, print, and media;

“(B) providing education, mentoring, and field demonstrations;
“(C) enhancing access for hunting and recreational shooting, including through range construction;

“(D) providing education to the public about the role of hunting and recreational shooting in funding wildlife conservation; and

“(E) using any other means to ensure the growth of hunting and recreational shooting, as determined by the Secretary;”.

SEC. 4. ALLOCATION AND APPORTIONMENT OF AVAILABLE AMOUNTS.

(a) APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.—Section 4(b) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c(b)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “The Secretary of the Interior” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “Such apportionments” and inserting the following:

“(2) ADJUSTMENTS.—The apportionments under paragraph (1)”;

(3) by striking the third sentence; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—
“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), amounts apportioned under this subsection may be used for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment.

“(B) LIMITATION.—A State may make an expenditure under subparagraph (A) only if the amount of the expenditure during the fiscal year in which the expenditure is made plus the amount of the expenditures for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment made during the 4 fiscal years preceding that fiscal year is not greater than 25 percent of the total amount apportioned to the State under this subsection during that 5-fiscal-year period.”.

(b) APPORTIONMENT OF CERTAIN TAXES.—The first subsection (c) of section 4 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669c) is amended—

(1) by inserting “APPORTIONMENT OF REVENUES FROM PISTOLS, REVOLVERS, BOWS, AND ARROWS.—” after the enumerator;

(2) by striking “One-half” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), \(\frac{1}{2}\)"
(3) by striking “: Provided, That” and inserting a period;

(4) by striking “each State shall be apportioned not more than 3 per centum and not less than 1 per centum of such revenues” and inserting the following:

“(2) CONDITION.—The amount apportioned to each State under paragraph (1) shall be not greater than 3 percent and not less than 1 percent of the revenues described in such paragraph”;

(5) by striking “For the purpose” and inserting the following:

“(3) POPULATION DETERMINATION.—For the purpose”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) USE OF FUNDS.—In addition to other uses authorized under this Act, amounts apportioned under this subsection may be used for hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment.”.

**SEC. 5. EXPENDITURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF WILDLIFE AREAS AND RESOURCES.**

Section 8 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the third sentence, by striking “and public relations”; and
(2) in subsection (b), in the first sentence, by striking “as a part of such program”.

SEC. 6. FIREARM AND BOW HUNTER EDUCATION AND SAFETY PROGRAM GRANTS.

Section 10(a)(1)(A) of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–1(a)(1)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iii), by striking “and” at the end; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(v) the enhancement of hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment; and”.

SEC. 7. MULTISTATE CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM.

Section 11 of the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act (16 U.S.C. 669h–2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “Not more than” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not more than”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) AVAILABILITY FOR HUNTER AND RECREATIONAL SHOOTER GRANTS.—Not more than $5,000,000 of the revenues covered into the fund from any tax imposed under section
4161(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for a fiscal year shall be available to the Secretary exclusively for making hunter recruitment and recreational shooter recruitment grants that promote a national hunting and shooting sport recruitment program, including related communication and outreach activities.”;

(2) in the matter preceding subsection (b)(3)(A), by striking “International”;

(3) in the matter preceding subsection (c)(2)(A)(i), by striking “International”;

(4) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(i), by inserting “or to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”;

and

(5) in subsection (d), by inserting “or to recreational shooting activities” after “wildlife”.

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